

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

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R 160822Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8018

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ISTANBUL 3632

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OTRA/ASEC

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF SY AGENTS JOHNSON, LECKER, MITCHELL

REF : A. ANKARA 6925 B. IZMIR 0287

1. DURING CALL ON CONSUL GENERAL, SEPTEMBER 14, SY AGENT BERNARD JOHNSON EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH HIS VISIT TO TURKEY. HE WAS

ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY WARMTH OF RECEPTION FROM TURKISH PEOPLE. ESCORT FOR VISIT, ORHAN KOLOGLU, REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY(RPP) SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, COMMENTED THAT VISIT BY JOHNSON, MITCHELL AND LECKER CAME AT PROPITIOUS TIME FOR TURKISH/US RELATIONS. HE FELT THAT IT SERVED TO FOCUS TURKISH PUBLIC'S ATTENTION ON POSITIVE EVENT AT TIME WHEN RELATIONS WERE STRAINED. AS INDICATION OF GOODWILL

ENGENDERED BY VISIT, KOLOGLU NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS WHATSOEVER IN CONNECTION WITH TRIP, AND HE FELT THAT PRESS TREATMENT, INCLUDING THAT IN ANTI-RPP PAPERS, HAD BEEN FAVORABLE.

2. CONGEN OFFICER'S OBSERVATION OF ISTANBUL LEG OF TRIP CONFIRMS KOLOGLU'S ASSESSMENT. IN FULL PROGRAM LAID ON BY RPP, GROUP TOURED MOST FAMOUS OF ISTANBUL'S MANY TOURIST ATTRACTIONS. JOHNSON IN PARTICULAR, WAS READILY RECOGNIZED BY ISTANBULLUS, AND PARTY ATTRACTED

FRIENDLY CROWDS IN ITS TRAVELS THROUGH THE CITY. ACCORDING TO ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEWSPAPER, WHEN AGENTS WERE SHOPPING COVERED BAZAAR

MERCHANTS WOULD NOT TAKE MONEY FOR THEIR PURCHASES. FLOWERS, WHICH TURKS TRADITIONALLY OFFER AS SYMBOLS OF HOSPITALITY, WERE FREQUENTLY PRESENTED TO THEM. PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS BROAD AND UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE.

3. JOHNSON DEPARTED ISTANBUL SEPTEMBER 15, AND WAS SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT BY ISTANBUL RPP CHAIRMAN AYTEKIN KOTIL. LECKER AND MITCHELL LEFT ISTANBUL SEPTEMBER 14.
OGDEN

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